

# The Sundridge Village News

## March 2023

In this issue, we have news from the Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, Rochester Cathedral and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society. We hear of the next meeting of the Forest Church and an update from the Parish Council including news of the celebrations being arranged for the King's Coronation and, of course, dates for your diary!



### Parish Services for March

**Sunday 5th**  
09.15 Toys Hill Morning Worship  
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion  
15.00 Toys Hill Forest Church

**Sunday 12th**  
10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion  
*Service taken by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge,  
The Ven Sharon Copestake*

**Sunday 19th Mothering Sunday**  
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

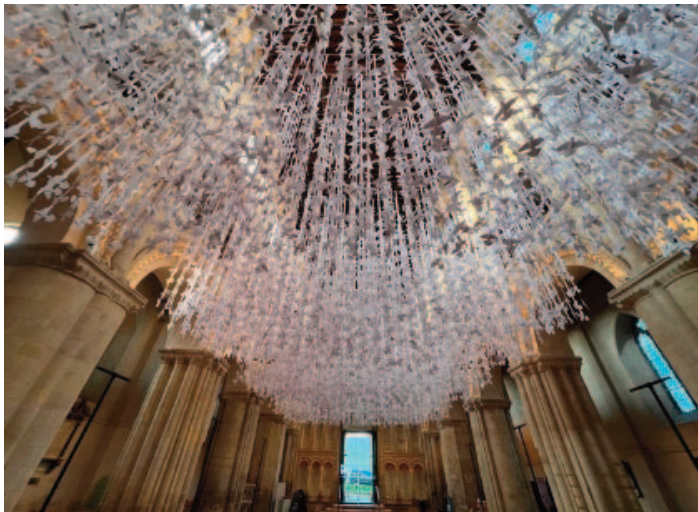
**Sunday 26th**  
17.00 Ide Hill Evensong

**Please note that on the last Sunday in March, there will not be a 10.30am service but, instead, an Evensong, sung by the Bexley Association Choir, at 5 pm at Ide Hill.**

**Churchwarden** Althea Chapman email: [althea.chapman@outlook.com](mailto:althea.chapman@outlook.com)

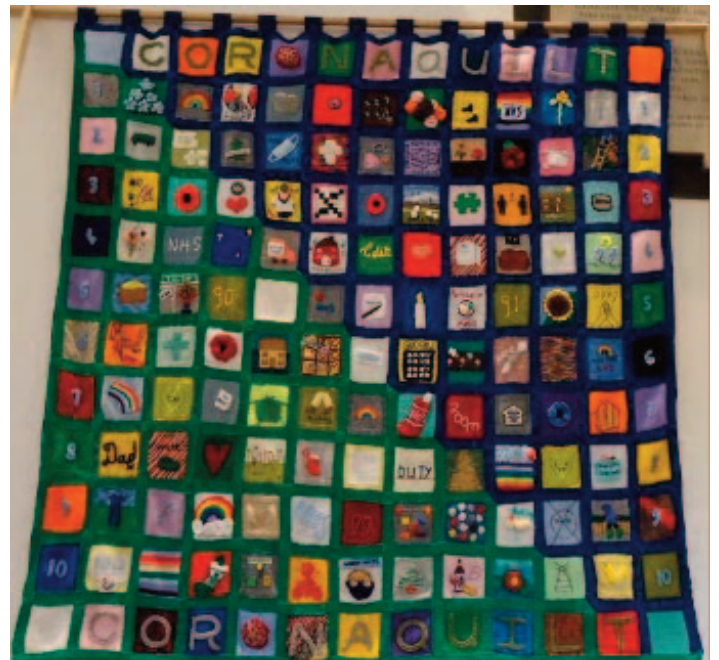
### News from Rochester Cathedral

Readers may be interested in viewing two exhibitions in Rochester Cathedral in the next few months. As featured in the December/January edition of the Village News and on BBC's South East evening news programme on 13th February, "Peace Doves" is now on display. Bringing a message of peace and hope, "Peace Doves" has been created from around fifteen thousand individually handmade paper doves. Suspended above the Nave they collectively reflect joining together in unity, peace and hope moving forward. The artwork by sculptor Peter Walker is open until 18th April 2023. Admission is free during the day but charges may apply for special events.



The West Kingsdown Corona Quilt will be on display in the Crypt for visitors to see from 21st March - 1st May. The Quilt was a project instigated by Saint Edmund King and Martyr Church in West Kingsdown. Saint Edmund's

band of knitters usually make items for congregation members at major celebratory services. During lockdown this wasn't possible, so the community were invited to contribute 5" x 5" knitted squares illustrating lockdown activities/events to produce a quilt. Over 30 local people contributed – a mixture of people from Saint Edmund's, other churches and local residents. The West Kingsdown Corona Quilt is approximately 7ft x 7ft 6". The squares are made of wool. The Quilt has been on display in several places including Saint Edmund King and Martyr Church, St Peter and St Paul's in Ash and St Bartholomew's in Otford.



## Forest Church News

Forest Church is taking to the road for the next few months, so please make a careful note of the times and venues.

**Sunday 5th March 3pm - Toys Hill Chapel**

Lent fun in 30 minutes

**Sunday 2nd April 10.15 - Ide Hill Church**

for Palm Sunday with Pedro the Donkey. Fun activities for children during the service. Meet at the school.



**Easter Sunday 9th 10.30 – Ide Hill Church**

to celebrate Easter. Come and make an Easter Garden during the service.

**Sunday May 7th 10.30 - Sundridge Church**

Coronation Sunday

Dress up as a King or Queen, make a crown and parade down the aisle. Royal refreshments available.

*All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing and do stay for refreshments afterwards. Please come along and see what it is like to worship outside in nature. For more details please contact: Diana Pickard [dipickard2@aol.com](mailto:dipickard2@aol.com) Barbara Lockey [bixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:bixmix@btopenworld.com)*



## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

The members of the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society spent a sunny afternoon meeting friends and enjoying the cakes and tea provided by the Committee. The tables were organised with a vase of daffodils on each one which gave a great atmosphere for all who attended.



Examples of photos are shown, including some of those members and the cakes on display.

Julia, our Treasurer, collected the subs and passed on the future catalogue with a membership card which enables members to claim a discount at both Newlands Nursery at Goathurst Common, Ide Hill and at



Sevenoaks Garden Centre, Main Road, Sundridge. Those members who were unable to attend can bring their subs to the next meeting or perhaps give them to another member, but enclose the money in an envelope with their names printed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March at 7.45pm for refreshments, starting at 8pm at the Ide Hill Village Hall. The speaker will be Tessa Allen whose subject will be "Making Changes to our Gardens". Most of you will have noticed that Spring has started early this year and, with a peat free compost, we will require some guidance on maintaining our gardens with some useful professional suggestions from Tessa.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

*Pat Mackness*



# Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 24 April 2023 at 7.00pm at Sundridge Village Hall. Residents of the parish are invited to attend to hear from your Parish Council and raise any questions. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Stubbs Wood

It has been a while since the previous contractor, who was engaged to undertake work in Stubbs Wood, breached their contract and left the work incomplete. Volunteers, under the leadership of Dominic Rossi, have made good much of the unfinished work but the main works are still to be completed and need to be done by a professional tree management company.



*Volunteers working in Stubbs Wood as part of the Parish Council programme of work to improve access, create viewpoints and open spaces. Councillor Maybury with fellow National Trust Rangers taking a break from clearance work in Ide Hill.*

## His Majesty King Charles III Coronation Saturday 6th May – Monday 8th May

The Lord-Lieutenant, The Lady Colgrain, has been advised of further details from The King's Household to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III where people from across the UK and the Commonwealth will come together to celebrate this historic event.

### Saturday 6th May – Coronation Service

The centrepiece of the Coronation weekend is the Westminster Abbey Service due to take place in the morning. The Service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.

### Sunday 7th May – Coronation Big Lunch

Communities will come together to arrange street parties, gatherings in parks, gardens and community spaces to mark the Coronation.

### Sunday 7th May – Coronation Concert

On Sunday a special Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle, produced, staged and broadcast live by the BBC. The BBC will arrange for several thousand pairs of tickets to be made available via a public ballot. The audience will also include volunteers from The King and The Queen Consort's many charity affiliations. The centrepiece of the Coronation Concert, 'Lighting up the Nation', will see the country join together in celebration as iconic locations across the United Kingdom are lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

## Monday 8th May – The Big Help Out

This event is being organised by The Together Coalition and will include support from partners such as the Royal Voluntary Service, Faith Groups from around the United Kingdom and the Scouts. This initiative will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities and the satisfaction it can bring to people giving up their time to volunteer and bring about change. Recalling His Majesty's lifelong dedication to public service, supported by The Queen Consort and other Members of the Royal Family, it is hoped that this initiative will provide an opportunity for communities to come together and support a whole range of volunteering initiatives to create a lasting legacy. More information on how people can get involved can be found here on The Big Help Out

## Coronation Big Lunch in the Parish

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the Parish to celebrate the King's Coronation at a street party on Sunday 7th May between 13:00 – 18:00 on Church Road, Sundridge. The Parish Council will be providing a BBQ, Ice Lollies, tea, coffee, water and squash, along with games for the children and music. We will also be providing bunting, decorations, tables and a few chairs/picnic benches. We ask that, if you can, please bring a picnic chair as the supply of chairs is limited. Attendance as well as the food and non-alcoholic drinks provided by the Council will be free. As we need to cater for a fixed number this will be provided on a first come first served basis.

The Sundridge and Brasted Social Club will be providing a bar at the party where alcoholic drinks can be purchased at their usual low prices.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the day. Firstly, we will have a food sharing table and invite residents to bring along something to share with your neighbours such as pasta, salad, curry etc. This can be homemade or store bought. Secondly, we need volunteers to help with the set up and pack down on the day. If you can help with any of the above, please email:

[viki.allgood@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:viki.allgood@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk)

with details of what you'd be happy to cover.

If you require any assistance in getting to the event, the Sundridge Support Group volunteers are happy help. Please contact [info@sundridgewithidehill.co.uk](mailto:info@sundridgewithidehill.co.uk)

**Please note the event is only open to residents of the Parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill.**

## Coronation volunteering in the Parish

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the parish to join a village volunteer group on Monday 8th May from 13:00-15:00 on Coronation Gardens, Sundridge. The group are going to clean the Coronation Memorial, paint the posts along the main road and litter pick around the village. If there are volunteers who would like to organise other initiatives in the Parish please do get in touch with: [john.evans@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:john.evans@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk) to confirm what you would like to organise.

## Charity Dinner March 17th 2023

Sevenoaks Rotary Club is organising a charity dinner at Westerham Golf Club on Friday March 17th in aid of the Bridge Trust Project which provides accommodation for single homeless adults in Kent along with quality support services.

It will be a two-course meal with a speaker, Barbara Stevens, who will tell the story of Emma and Charles Darwin. The cost of the dinner will be £35 and will be followed by a raffle with a few attractive prizes.

The event is being organised by Bob and Fern Ogley. We would be delighted if you could join us at this event and help a worthwhile charity operating in West Kent.

### Further information from

**Froglets, Brasted Chart, Westerham TN16 1LY  
telephone 01959 562972 bob@bobogley.plus.com**

I have been without both heating and hot water over the Christmas period which has been quite a traumatic experience and I didn't cope at all well. I was fortunate in having good friends who offered me not only a hot meal but a warm bed. The Bridge Trust's aims are one of Christian compassion, dedication and determination, underpinned by the conviction that no one should be without a safe and secure home of their own. Please do support this worthwhile charity

## Mark Nelson's new Ministry

Many of you will remember Mark Nelson who, for a number of years, was Head Gardener for the National Trust at Emmett's. Mark and Livvy were married in Ide Hill Church and Mark was confirmed in Sundridge. On leaving Ide Hill, Mark went to be Head Gardener at Dorney Wood, the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. While there he put himself forward for ordination and was accepted on the course run by the Diocese of Oxford. He was ordained in Oxford in 2017 and served his curacy at Wilmslow.

Mark has now moved on to his first living as Rector and was inducted into St Peter's, Heysham in the Diocese of Blackburn on Sunday 5th February by Bishop Jill, Bishop of Lancaster. St Peter's is a lovely old church dating from 967 and built on a grassy slope overlooking Morecombe Bay, a truly peaceful setting. Mark and Livvy now have two daughters, Grace 13 and Lily 8, and we wish them well in Mark's new Ministry.



# News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School  
and Happy New Year to you all!  
We hope you all enjoyed a healthy and peaceful Christmas.*

The term after Christmas always feels a bit odd. It's cold and dark and winter bugs often prevail. However, at Sundridge & Brasted, we have been busy, working hard and enjoying every moment!

In sports, our Year 1 and 2 children took part in infant agility events at Knole Academy and did us all proud. They showed amazing balance, co-ordination and agility skills and excellent sportsmanship. A team of older children went to Sevenoaks School for "Dare to Believe", an event that offers children an opportunity to try paralympic sports. Students from Valence School, many of whom are working towards their BTEC award in sports coaching, led the event and instructed the children in the various sports. It seems our team was particularly good at seated volleyball and kurling!

Squirrel class went on a road trip to Sevenoaks Library and Museum, Kaleidoscope. They looked at all sorts of artefacts including a part of a reindeer's antler found in Sevenoaks! They explored the museum and the library and each chose a book to bring back to the classroom. Miss Gallagher and Mrs Langran were so proud of them all and they had lots of fun learning about our local past.

Squirrel class also enjoyed a wonderful afternoon when one of our children's grandma came in to talk about Chinese New Year. She spoke about Chinese customs, beliefs and traditions and she most generously gave all the children a lucky envelope and an orange as a token of good fortune and blessings. It was a fascinating afternoon and the children were thoroughly engaged and asked wonderful questions.



important to us. We read the book "The Invisible String" by Patrice Karst, which is a lovely story about how we are all connected no matter how far apart we may be. The children were given part of a paper chain and encouraged to write their name on it, together with the things they love. In Collective Worship at the end of the week, they joined all of the chains together to create one long chain of connections throughout the school.

On the Wednesday the children ate lunch with the staff in their class. The tables were decorated with tablecloths, confetti, streamers and daffodils, creating a wonderfully pretty place to eat, talk and connect. The classes also created wonderful pieces of artwork during the week, based on "The Invisible String", which are now on display in school.



Our focus in the last week of term was Children's Mental Health Week, the theme for which this year was 'Let's Connect'. Children's Mental Health is, of course, at the forefront of education and at the very heart of our own school ethos. We focused on making connections throughout the week, in class and in the community. The week started with a whole school assembly introducing the concept of connections and why relationships are so

With a view to extending the connections beyond school, we invited a group of local residents to join us for tea and scones. Fox class entertained the group, serving refreshments, chatting and playing board games. Squirrel class popped in to sing a couple of songs. It was a delightful morning and enjoyed by all. We very much hope to keep this connection going and to invite the group into school each term.

So, busy days as always!



*As always, we send our very best wishes to the whole community.*

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

*We know that we can make a difference by showing kindness through our words and actions. We strive to have a positive impact every day.*

Telephone: 01959 562694

email: [office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk) [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk)

## Friends of St Mary's AGM and talk

**MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023 AT 7.00pm**

Come and hear Nick White bring to life the history of the Isley family following The Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting at St Mary's Church Sundridge.

*Admission is free and light refreshments will be served after the talk.*



## THE ISLEYS OF SUNDRIDGE

A talk presented by Nick White



A succession of members of the Isley family were Lords of the Manor in Sundridge in the 15th and 16th centuries. Not only were they important in our parish, but they played significant roles in national events. Three of them were involved, on one side or the other, in rebellions against the ruling monarchs. Sadly, the last of those three was hanged following the failure of his venture. After that the family disappeared without trace. Come and hear about the history of this interesting family.

## Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 8th March Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society** Ide Hill Village Hall, 7.45pm for refreshments, talk starting at 8pm

**Friday 17th March Charity Dinner** in aid of the Bridge Trust Project

**Monday 20th March 2023 Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge** 7.00pm Annual General Meeting see article for details

**Sunday 7th May Coronation Big Lunch in the Parish** Church Road, Sundridge from 13.00 to 18.00 see article

**Monday 8th May Clean the Coronation Memorial** Coronation Gardens from 13:00 to 18:00 see article

**Monday 8th May – The Big Help Out**  
See Parish Council article for details

## The April edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the next edition, please email by

Friday 24th March to:-

**[editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk](mailto:editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk)**

If you are not already a subscriber to the Sundridge Village News, please do join us. There is no cost and your details are not shared or used for any other purpose.

To subscribe, simply send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to [sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

## And finally . . .

*Some days you will move mountains  
Other days you will move  
from your bed to the sofa  
Both are OK and both necessary*